have sharply declined during last one year, if so, the details of exports that took place during last one year, month-wise and the earning of foreign exchange therefrom;

(b) whether his Ministry has recently held talks with different export organisation, trade and industries bodies of the country;

(c) if so, the details of the suggestions/ shortcoming pointed out by such organisations for declining trends; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the exports from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRYOF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) As per DGCIS data export growth at 4.12% in dollar terms was achieved in 1996-97 and sustained on a higher base. Monthwise foreign exchnage earnings are presented in the statement enclosed (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Government recently held a meeting with representatives of trade and industry to discuss the problems faced by the exporters and immediate steps that may be taken to boost export performance. Some of the factors cited and suggestions given were lowering of the threshold limit of Star/Super Star trading house/export house/star trading house, announcing the DEPB rates at the earliest, allowing deemed export benefit to all exporters on monthly basis besides reduction in interest rates on export credit, improved infrastructure facilities etc.

(d) The Government has already revised the threshold limit of Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House as suggested by the exporters. DEPB rates of 1192 items have been notified. The deemed export benefit of refund of terminal excise duty and deemed export draw back can now be availed by all exporters on monthly basis also. In addition, general export promotion measures are continously being taken by the Government to promote exports through simplification of policy and procedures, improving bilateral trade, debottle-necking of export infrastructure etc.

Statement

Monthwise Indian Exports during 1996-97

(US billion dollar)

Months	**Value**
April 1996	2.90
May 1996	2.75
June 1996	2.60
July 1996	2.67
August 1996	2.69
September 1996	2.64
October 1996	2.68
November 1996	2.53
December 1996	2.77
January 1997	2.91
February 1997	2.66
March 1997	3.30

Export and Import with China and Hong Kong

660. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) the amount of export and imports with China and Hong Kong during last three years in dollar terms separately;

(b) whether any study has been conducted by his Ministry about the trade prospects/ problems following merger of Hong Kong with China recently;

(c) whether Indian industrialist or trade experts so far operating from Hong Kong had given/submitted any memoranda to the Government on trade aspect/implications of such merger; and

(d) if answers to parts (b) and (c) above be in affirmative, the steps Government have taken to maintain trade balance/relation following recent developments in Hong Kong?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) The Amount of India's exports and imports during the last three years

in dollar terms to China and Hong Kong are given below:-

China

(IN US $ MILLION)

	INDIA'S EXPORTS	INDIA'S IMPORTS
1994	322	573
1995	398	765
1996	719.16	689.54

(Source: EOI, Beijing)

Hong Kong

	INDIA'S EXPORTS	INDIA'S IMPORTS
1994	1449	517
1995	1859	796
1996	2711	762

(Source: CGI, Hong Kong)

(b) to (d) Government of India analysts at the Embassy of India, Beijing and Consulates General at Shanghai and Hong Kong report that it has been declared by the Government of People's Republic of China that Hong Kong will continue to enjoy a high degree of economic autonomy. For the next fifty years, after its return to Chinese Sovereignty on July, 1997 as per China's publicly announced policy of 'One Country, two Systems'. Hong Kong will continue to be a trading entrepot for India's China related trade. In order to maintain and increase the current level of trade, a review of commodities being exported to China through Hong Kong and examine their possible continuation and necessary replacement by value added finished products is recommended. Hong Kong's world shop-window status will benefit from evaluation to form a sound strategy for India's trade with HongKong.

Identification of New Markets to Boost Exports

661. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government during the last three years for identification of new markets in the world to boost country's exports;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether exports to these new markets have commenced; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Export promotion is a continous and sustained process and the Government strives to promote exports through a number of measures which include identification of new markets. Identification of markets is being done through bilateral as well as multilateral negotiations, efforts to join trading blocs, trade promotion through organising trade fairs, etc. and also through desk research and market intelligence and surveys.

(c) and (d) Exports to a number of market have commenced which include Argentine, South Africa, Botswana, Swaziland, Namibia, Brazil, etc. Country specific efforts have also been taken to promote trade with Israel and border trade with Mynammar. Special thrust is being given to Latin America, Africa and Central Asian Republics.

Anti-dumping measures invoked against Exports and Imports

662. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of so-called anti-dumping measures invoked against our exports by foreign Government in each of the years since 1991-92;

(b) the details of anti-dumping measures invoked in this country against imports from overseas over the same period; and

(c) the nature of pressure mounted by interested parties to persuade our Government to withdraw the measures initiated under (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA